

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 21

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0947

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, IR

SUBJ: SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/CONGRESSIONAL PRESEN-
TATION

REFS: (A) TEHRAN 10049; (B) STATE 12151

1. THE NARCOTICS CONTROL SITUATION IN IRAN HAS NOT CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE SUBMISSION OF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRESS REPORT -IRAN (REFTEL A) 26 NOV 1974. FOR MUCH OF THE INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATIVE REPORTING REQUESTED IN REFTEL B, THE INTERESTED AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON ARE THEREFORE REFERRED TO THAT REPORT. THE FOLLOWING IS KEYED TO THE HEADINGS OF REFTEL B.

2. SECTION A. MISSION DOES NOT RECEIVE NARCOTICS APPROPRIATIONS UNDER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. NOTE ONLY THAT THREE USG EMPLOYEES IN IRAN DEVOTE MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF TIME TO NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES: DEA HAS SAIC AND ONE SECRETARY; GENMISH HAS ONE NARCOTICS ADVISER.

3. SECTION B. (A) SUMMARY FOR PERIOD JULY 1-DECEMBER 31, 1974. EVENTS IN LATTER PART OF NOVEMBER AND DURING DECEMBER 1974 HAVE NOT SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED GENERAL NARCOTICS PICTURE
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REPORTED IN REFTEL A.

(B) ABUSE. THERE ARE NO NEW DATA ON DRUG ABUSE IN IRAN, SINCE DATA ARE PUBLISHED ONCE A YEAR, USUALLY IN MAY, IN CONNECTION WITH IRAN'S REPORT TO THE U.N. THE GOI ITSELF ADMITS THAT THE NUMBER OF ADDICTS IS LARGE AND THAT THE DATA ARE UNRELIABLE. LATEST FIGURES AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY STATE THAT THERE ARE 157,000 REGISTERED OPIUM ADDICTS. WE ESTIMATE THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 400,000 ADDITIONAL PERSONS WHO ABUSE OPIUM. THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS 50,000 HEROIN ADDICTS. ABUSE OF BARBITURATES, AMPHETAMINES, HASHISH, AND HEROIN APPEARS TO BE ON THE INCREASE, BUT NO QUANTITATIVE MEASURES ARE AVAILABLE. THE GOI RECENTLY ADDED LSD TO DRUGS ON THE ILLEGAL LIST (OPIUM, HEROIN, AND HASHISH) AND IT IS REPORTED THAT LEGISLATION IS BEING PREPARED TO CONTROL THE DISPENSING OF BARBITURATES AND AMPHETAMINES ALSO.

(C) PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING. A TOTAL OF 5,500 HECTARES WAS AUTHORIZED FOR OPIUM CULTIVATION IN 1973-74, AND 98,000 KILOGRAMS OF GUM OPIUM WAS HARVESTED. THE SAME TOTAL AREA IS AUTHORIZED FOR CULTIVATION DURING THE CURRENT GROWING SEASON. IN A FOUR-MONTH PERIOD ENDING JULY 22, 1974, THE NARCOTICS CONTROL ORGANIZATION OF THE GOI DELIVERED 55,000 KILOGRAMS OF YELLOW IRANIAN OPIUM AND 8,250 KILOGRAMS OF SEIZED BLACK OPIUM TO AUTHORIZED OUTLETS FOR REGISTERED ADDICTS.

(D) TRAFFICKING TRENDS. AS REPORTED REFTEL A. NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE FROM IRAN, TURKEY, AND EUROPE INDICATES THAT THE VOLUME OF HASHISH BEING SMUGGLED FROM AFGHANISTAN THROUGH IRAN TO THE WEST VIA TIR TRUCKS HAS PROBABLY INCREASED. IRANIANS APPEAR TO DOMINATE THIS TRAFFICKING. SEIZURES OF MORPHINE BASE AT OR NEAR THE TURKISH BORDER HAVE DECLINED TO NOTHING IN RECENT MONTHS. ON THE OTHER HAND, TWO IMPORTANT SEIZURES OF HEROIN IN TEHRAN IN OCTOBER SEEM TO INDICATE: (1) A CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE WITHIN IRAN HIGHER QUALITY HEROIN THAN HERETOFORE, AND (2) A CONNECTION TO THE EAST FOR THE RAW MATERIAL.

(E) REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION. NOTHING NEW.

(F) EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES. NOTHING BEYOND NORMAL COOPERATIVE CONTACTS.
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(G) ENFORCEMENT. AVAILABLE STATISTICS ON SEIZURES FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD ARE INCOMPLETE, SINCE THEY REPRESENT ONLY THREE MONTHS OF NATIONAL POLICE OPERATIONS AND FOUR MONTHS OF IMPERIAL IRANIAN GENDARMERIE OPERATIONS. THE FOLLOWING DATA ARE IN KILOGRAMS: OPIUM - 3,640; HEROIN - 47.3; HASHISH - 1,317; AND MORPHINE - 0.14. ARRESTS FOR THE SAME MONTHS TOTALED 2,969.

(H) INCOME SUBSTITUTION. NOT APPLICABLE.

(I) TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION. WITH ESTABLISHMENT
IN THE SPRING OF 1974 OF A NEW MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE,
THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ADDICTS HAS RECEIVED
RENEWED ATTENTION. THE YAFTABAD HOSPITAL IN THERAN IS BEING
COMPLETED ESPECIALLY FOR DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION AND
WILL BECOME A NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER FOR THIS WORK THROUGH-
OUT IRAN. HOWEVER, EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE DANGERS
OF DRUG ABUSE IS A SPORADIC EFFORT AT BEST.

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